

JAN 28 2008

Application Serial No. 10/796,488
Attorney Docket No. 10040374-1
Reply to Final Office Action dated November 26, 2007**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus for separating a slide from a substrate backing, comprising:
 - (a) a slide 440 for holding an array;
 - (b) a substrate backing 425 being positioned opposite the slide;
 - (c) a gasket 427 interposed between the slide and the substrate backing and having a perimeter 425; and
 - (d) a spacer 429 interposed between the slide 440 and the substrate backing 425 adjacent to the gasket, the spacer positioned outside the perimeter and providing a pivot between the substrate backing and the slide, 427
wherein when a sufficient force +50,-150- is applied to the substrate backing 425 and the slide 440, a portion of the slide 440 separates from the substrate backing 425 permitting disassembly of the slide 440 from the substrate backing 425.
2. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the gasket 427 comprises a deformable material.
3. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the spacer 429 comprises a substantially non-deformable material.
4. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the gasket 427 is attached to the slide 440.
5. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the gasket 427 is attached to the substrate backing 425.

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6. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the gasket 427 comprises a portion of the substrate backing 425.

7. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the gasket 427 is attached to both the slide 440 and the substrate backing 425.

8. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the spacer 429 is attached to the slide 440.

9. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the spacer 429 is attached to the substrate backing 425.

10. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the spacer 429 is attached to both the slide 440 and the substrate backing 425.

11. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the spacer 429 comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes, plastics, acrylics, metals and non-deformable or less deformable polymers.

12. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the spacer 429 is between 25 to 500 microns in height.

13. (Previously Presented) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein the array hybridization apparatus defines an array hybridization chamber having a height of between 25 to 1000 microns.

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14. (Currently Amended) A method of disassembling an array hybridization apparatus having a slide contacting a substrate backing, the substrate backing having a gasket and spacer, the gasket having a perimeter and the spacer positioned outside the perimeter, the method comprising: a:

applying a force 450, 450' to the edge of a slide 440 on one side of the spacer to separate at least a portion of the slide 440 and the gasket from a the substrate backing 425 on an opposite side of the spacer, wherein the force causes a pivot between the spacer and the slide.

15. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising a living hinge 442 that aids in the separation of the backing 425 from the slide 440.

16. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising a lever 464 rotatably mounted on a hinge.

17. (Currently Amended) The array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein spacer 429 is spaced from gasket 427 by about 1 cm to 5 cm.

18. (Currently Amended) The array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising tabs 454, 454' extending away from substrate backing 425, slide 440, or both.